which, with the native Hawaiian whites and reds, were the progenitors of the modern Hawaiian hybrids.

The earliest crosses were confined to the use of native Hawaiian whites as pod parents, as only a few of the introduced varieties were seeders. Although the forms of H. Rosa Sinensis brought in were not truly species, but were the result of hundreds of years of natural change and perhaps some human selection, they were in effect species when crossed with the native species, producing hybrids with great hybrid vigor. This is the case with most interspecific crosses. In addition to "Agnes Galt", many of the hybrids produced during this period still persist as dooryard and public landscape plantings throughout the world. The double pink "Kona", the single pink, "Mrs. Lillian Wilder" and many others we still see are F-1 hybrids with native Hawaiian white as one parent.

Modern breeders, of course, are interested in show blooms, and to them these forms are primitive. Yet we must all admit that they have been of real horticultural significance in that they are not only the progenitors of modern hibiscus, but because they are

(More)

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* *

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still around, useful in landscape plantings wherever tropical hibiscus can be grown.

Not all of Mr. Gartley's observations are valid today, because his experience was with species and very old types of H. Rosa Sinensis, and the laws of heredity as laid down by the Mendelian theory did apply to a great extent. But today, when working with highly complex hybrids, we cannot accept all of his experience.

Alonzo Gartley was an industrial engineer, a graduate from the U. S. Naval Academy and in his earlier years an engineering officer in the Navy. He came to Hawaii in 1900, and became manager of the Hawaiian Electric Company, as well as a director in many other firms. He died in 1921.

THE BREEDING OF HIBISCUS by A. Gartley
as published in "The Friend" - February 1913

Visitors to Hawaii and discriminating kamaainas almost without exception agree that the Hibiscus is the most satisfactory and perhaps most generally admired of all our flowering shrubs. The soil and climatic conditions seem especially favorable to its growth, and there seems to be an almost complete immunity from disease. As a result it has been widely used as an ornamental garden shrub and hedge plant, but it has not yet had the extensive planting its beauty and its utility deserves. An educational campaign is necessary to focus appreciative attention upon perhaps the most valuable asset of Honolulu Beautiful.

There is an enthusiastic group of men and women in Hawaii who have a full appreciation of this plant, and it is hoped through them that such an educational campaign may be promoted and furthered.

An Hibiscus Club has already been formed to promote

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